

Appl. No.: 10/554,089
Reply to Office Action of: 10/16/2007

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aldridge et al. (US 2002/0150332 A1). Claims 2-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge et al. (US 2002/0150332 A1) in view of Ziegler et al. (US 2003/0059172 A1). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice above and its features have been added to claim 1. Claim 1 claims that the protection cover is adapted to use the optical cavity as a reference, and that the protection cover comprises attachment means joining the protection cover and the circuit board at the optical cavity. Aldridge et al. discloses a protective plug 48 inserted into a passageway 46/56. As the examiner has admitted, Aldridge et al. does not disclose the features of former claim 2 (which have now been added to claim 1). Ziegler et al. discloses a transport cover 35 for a socket 2 of a connection device 1 which is arranged on an instrument or device 8. The connection device 1 is integrated into a housing 9 of the device 8 (see paragraph 0018-0019). There appears to be no suggestion to combine the features of Ziegler et al. with Aldridge et al. Ziegler et al. merely suggests adding the connection device 1 onto the composite 40 of Aldridge et al. and then connecting the transport cover 35 onto the connection device 1. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the transport cover 35 being connected to the passageway 46/56 of the composite 40. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the protection cover is adapted to use the optical cavity of the circuit board as a reference, and that

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the protection cover comprises attachment means joining the protection cover and the circuit board at the optical cavity. There is no suggestion in the cited references of the transport cover 35 being adapted to use an optical cavity (passageway 46/56) of the circuit board (40) of Aldridge et al. as a reference. Transport cover 35 is merely for plugging into socket 2 of the connection device 1. There is no suggestion in the cited references of transport cover 35 of Ziegler et al. comprising attachment means joining the cover 35 and the circuit board 40 of Aldridge et al. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 13-17 have been added above to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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